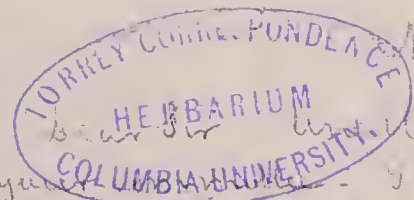


Professor Torrey



New York, 22nd January 1832

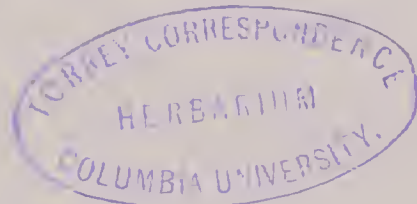
When I leave my room, I address you on the subject under care of your Herbarium. I shall give you to understand in all its bearings my motives for presenting this paper before the Academy. The introduction of foreign plants was a gratuitous duty imposed on a portion of the American Consuls not one whom as far as I can learn has made any sacrifice to discharge it except myself. The suspicions and despotism of the ignorant, people among whom I resided, threw every possible obstacle in the way of my enquiries, and my only means of overcoming them were the gratuitous and public distribution of my medical services. I was therefore cut off from all opportunities of making money either by professional services or by private means. While my unaffected countrymen in the same situation and region were acquiring independent fortunes. Government furnished no pecuniary aid to its consuls, my Consulate did not defray one third of my personal expenses, and I should have starved had it not been my fate to receive from selected planters an occasional morsel as gift which I would have not accepted had they possessed the power to interrupt my researches. My labors have therefore been hitherto of comparatively little practical utility to my country. Yet the intelligence I have acquired though limited in quantity is invaluable in quality. I doubt not that it will contribute essentially and greatly to the prosperity and perpetuity of our union. Although not qualified for a formal botanical description yet I consider my information valuable to be used to guide others in their steps in quest of new varieties on that account. The practical value of all vegetables have been always ascertained before but exact language was never applied to describe them. I have found the advantages of the science to its fullest extent and wish to enjoy them all. This is a description. In the introduction of domesticating tropical plants in the United States was suggested for my individual funds and exertions, as Government would not appropriate funds in any manner either the enterprise entirely and directly in its own hands. I suggested in my letter to the Sec^y of the Treasury of the U.S. the propriety of forming an incorporated company in Florida for that purpose. This project I am informed is now recommended by the advice of the Governor of that Territory. Yet a company in itself is insufficient to accomplish the greatest possible quantity of public good. We all know that incorporations have no souls, no consciences, no patriotism, no liberality. They are powerful but not disposed to devote that power to a remote and public good. They will aid the public welfare only when bound by stipulations or when under the control of patriotic individuals. Under these convictions I determined to apply to Congress for a grant of land to myself and associates. I claim it as a matter of right either as a remuneration for the sacrifices I have made, or as a reward for the intelligence I have communicated, but would accept it as a favor to encourage the introduction to promote the culture of tropical plants, as such has been conceded to foreigners for the vine & olive. With this grant, I could say to the Company "Gentlemen I will throw this into common stock, with these conditions, you must erect comfortable buildings, place in them a library of botanical horticultural and agricultural books, and annex a garden or nursery of all interesting tropical plants, and I must be your superintendent therein." In this way only will be accomplished the great desideratum of domesticating foreign plants. A persevering enthusiastic ambition on the subject of the Circular. Dr. B. with the Horticultural Society. A Committee of the H. S. reported the project of establishing 3 great botanical gardens. And then the whole affair went to sleep and would have entirely died were it not for my humble self. Under these circumstances the world is to myself surely every scientific man in the United States will second my Petition to Congress for a grant of land to encourage the introduction of tropical plants. When once they hear the value of a single species they will support my petition on that ground alone.

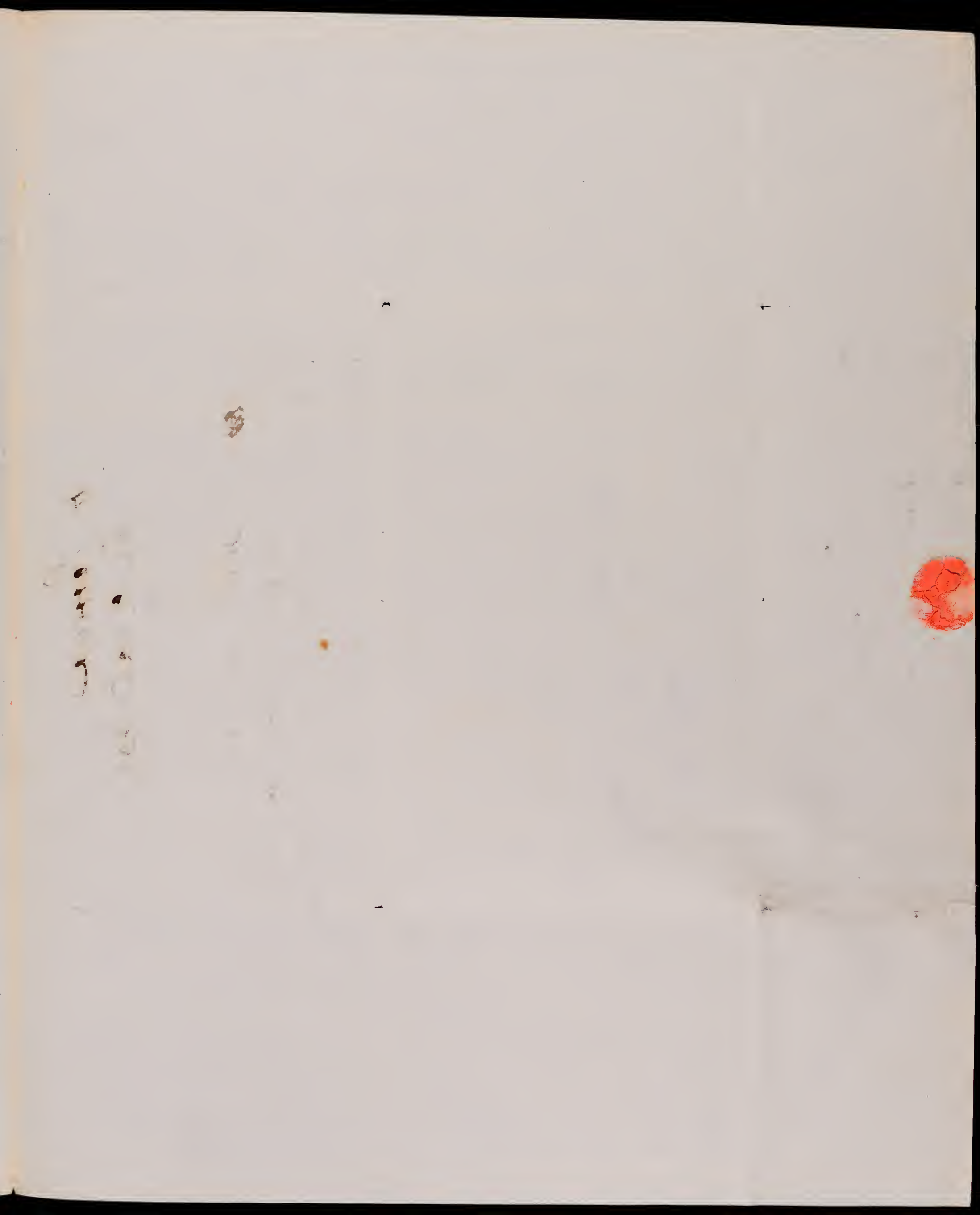
They will see that the mass cultivation of the legume sesame alone
will cause an entire revolution in the agriculture of the Southern States will
relieve them from their present alarming embarrassments and convert even
their ruined fields and sterile districts into vegetable mines of vegetable wealth
that it will furnish a profitable staple to the planters of the South which will
afford a safe market to the manufacturers, thereby saving many wounds of our
other staple crops, and they have no objection in general, and will thus promote
the prosperity and the perpetuity of the Union

In the first place I send the extract of my letter to the legume sesame before the
Lycium. I did not think it necessary to enter into details of the advantages which
would accrue to the United States from its adoption as so learned a body
should determine them at once. I stated the facts which show its importance
in the culture of Yucca. If the statement made in the message of the
Governor of New York be true viz that most articles of culture flourish most
at the northern margin of the zone of their growth the fact will be an
additional encouragement. I felt nevertheless that if the Lycium believed
my statements they must acknowledge that the subject was interesting
important, and deserving the patronage of Government, and concerned
that they could have no motive for reluctance in accepting those opinions.
I expected that they would at least have expressed their sense of its
importance in some way that might accompany its presentation as the
my Petition to Government. Even on that a circumstance as creating
not an honorary or corresponding member might have indicated their
feeling of its importance. However gratifying to my vanity it might have been
my vanity would have had the least gratification from such an act. My
ambition would have been subserved - an ambition which leads me
to believe that the success of my enterprise will elevate me to the level of
public benefactors higher than even the founders of Canada. With or without
the aid of scientific or moral men I will ultimately succeed, but they
could all accelerate my march. It would of course look better to the Congressional
Committee on my paper to see Document C in D, with the appendix there
before them by Lycium Y. Jan. Report to Committee is reported -
"that they conceive the subject to be of high national importance and
that the domestication of the species merits the special patronage of the
General Government. Concurred in by the Society."

I must lie down on account of exhaustion - but consider this communication
however tiresome it may be an effort to beg your favor or alternate your
friendship. May I say what my expectations were I have explained - If
they cannot be fulfilled, I merely wish to have my paper in the name
in such a manner as will not imply any unfavorable opinion being entertained
of it by the Lycium. I have the honor to be very resp. y

your ob. servt. H. Perren





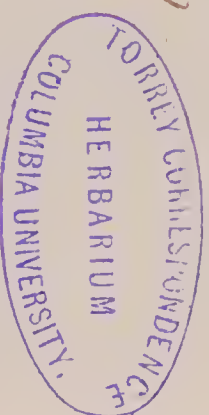
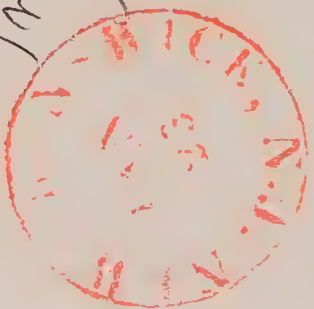
H. Torrey

Sept. 22nd 1832

dear Sir - I am in favor of reporting next Monday
if I wish you would show me a short letter
Saturday - you truly
yours

New York
Barclay Street

Medical College
New York



11111
D /

11111

dear Sir - I send you a letter etc. I rec'd a few
days ago from Dr. Torrey. It contains some stuff - but
that should not prevent us from making a favorable
report of his project, if it be a good one. No doubt we need
to have it to our own advantage - but it seems to me that
our country. & the cause of science, will also be

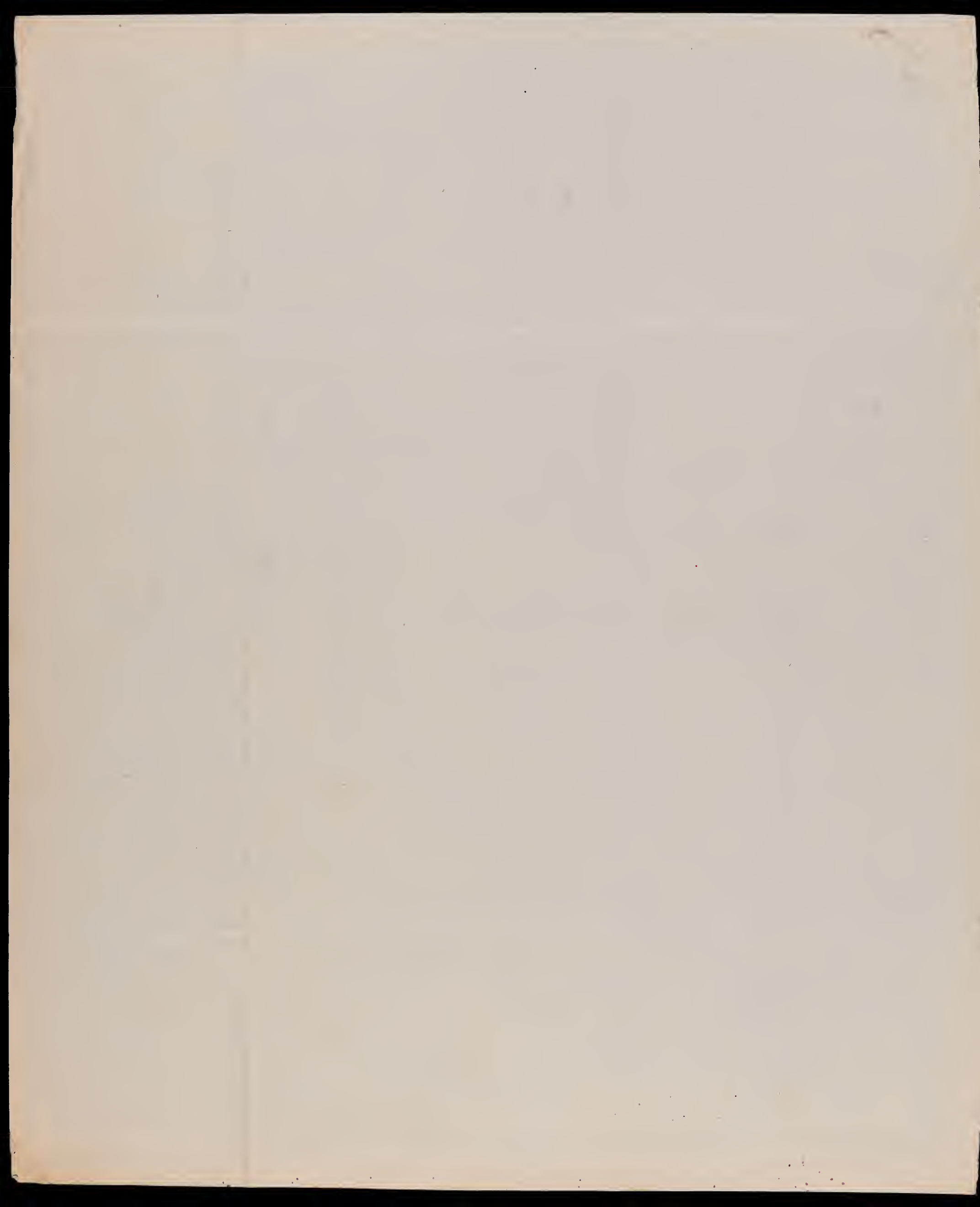
69.

LIBRARY
NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

Consulate U.S.A. Camp, 14th Jan 24 1833

Professor Torrey. Dear Sir. Two days ago we were very cold as
Fahrenheit pointed at 66° being 4° below colder than any this morning
this winter had now at 4 P.M. I am writing in my summer
dress with the mercury at 78°. It is very pleasant I assure
you to be enjoying the vegetables which you will not taste
in four or six months to come - when I hope to give you
in a bowl of strawberries and milk. No vessel was sent
or will be sent directly for New York and I dare not trust
any thing by indirect conveyance, so you will be so good as to
wait for your grasses until you get them. I have a tolerable
collection of the glaucous plants so far and they will shortly be more
abundant. I am improving in health and happiness - the only
thing that much troubles me being the news just rec'd from Barcelona.
I have rec'd a large letter from J. Dubose of Cape Florida which is very
encouraging to my enterprise - Plantain, Bananas, Oranges, Limes
be being already growing there; and Captain Parkman who was at the
Cape in May last is now here so that I have tolerably decided in
favor my opinions. In haste very respy y^r ob^t serv^t
J. H. Perine

Given by A. M. VAIL. from the J. J. Crooke Collection



ORREY CORRESPONDENCE

HERBARIUM

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

... which are ...

TO THE HERBARIUM

The above is a true and correct copy of the original as shown to me by the person who presented it for filing.

 Notary Public for the State of New York

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Professor John Torrey, c of Prince & Montague Sts New York

and Jan. 25th

Washington D.C. 13th January 1888 1888.

Dear Sir I wrote to you from the Room of the Committee on Agriculture of the B.D. in the Library of the central building of the Hospital with my specimens of filices & fibrous leaves displayed around me, and with your favor of the 5th not before me. Both that letter and the pamphlet in which it came were not delivered to me until yesterday evening, and then with the expense of an express of postage of one dollar and fifty cents. You were not aware of the fact that the Post Office 1st. That even Members of Congress are not allowed to receive free of charge any package of letters exceeding two ounces in weight & 2d. That of a Pamphlet is held to be a package. The package pays the postage of letters in proportion to weight. I do not mention this as a complaint of the post but to serve for your consideration in the future. And although we have the same in the Botanical Library the same No of Curtis's Botanical Magazine. I am not the less gratified to you for sending me the pamphlet to me and will return it to you shortly in safety. By a letter dated at Indian Hay 30th Decr from Charles Howe Esq. I learn another manœuvre of Mr Prince. He says "I received a letter from them by the Mail making inquiries who the vendors of seeds were and who had a Nursery of trees &c on this Coast. I answered them that there was none; but that you was only waiting for the termination of the Indian War to establish upon a large scale a Botanical Garden & acclimatizing Nursery, and concluded by saying that I was extremely sorry to hear you had not received the package addressed to the care of but that I still hoped it was not lost and that you would not get it. I thought proper to give them a hint upon the subject. Now it is truly provoking & moving, as much pains as I took in packing, forwarding and sending my agents in Charleston, sending also the Princes themselves, stating that I had sent a package to the care of you - begging them as a special favor to see that you got it, paying the freight myself from here to Charleston and requesting my agents to pay the same from Charleston to New York, and to request their Agents in N.Y. to forward the same immediately. What more could I have done than what I did do, and to whom could I have addressed them that were so well known as the Princes?" So Mr Howe nevertheless offers to send on another package to my order provided I can give him a sure and safe address and asks "Could you not get the names of the Agents for the Live Packets in New York, and let me direct them to the care, and request them to keep the same subject to your order?" What shall I say to Mr Howe in reply? Cannot Mr Downing, Agent in New York admit some safe and certain place to receive seeds and plants via Charleston from Indian Hay? So much for the trickery of Mr Prince. Now for the immediate subjects of your letter. 1st In reference to our Agave Virginica and other indigenous Yuccas you rightly infer I do not need repetition of copies of their botanical characters; but that I do wish copies of every thing said by every book at least of our own authors, in relation to their economical properties and to their habits of growth and to the soils and situations they most prefer and to the sites in which they exist and in which they are most abundant. Elliott says of the A. virginica that it grows in pinebarrens a very important fact to me; but it would also be equally important to know its Northern limits and the degrees of latitude & longitude throughout which it is found; yet he says nothing at all of the fibres of its leaves. Relative to the Yucca filamentosa & Y. flaccida I have just recd from Palmyra the following important facts. The Yucca filamentosa with stands the winter in the garden of David Thomas in Bayuga County N.Y. without protection, the leaves remaining green and uninjured. Young seedling plants were however killed - It does not increase readily by offsets in the soil of that garden which is a rich clayey loam. The Y. flaccida, which resembles the Y. filamentosa, having the same thread like appendages, is perfectly hardy, grows well and increases readily by offsets.

J. J. Thomas

Agave grows in Arkansas.

Nuttall has also "Yucca filamentosa recurvifolia?" - He says that Y. angustifolia grows in the Missouri.

Having been interrupted by a visit of five Mr. B. I sit down again to continue my letter. You will perceive that my great object is to spread before Congress and the Country a compilation of all the scanty facts that are known relative to our indigenous Agaves & Yuccas, and other indigenous plants with fibrous leaves of any such there be. As however a figure of each will attract the attention of 99 out of 100 of our people more than whole volumes of printed words without figures, and as a plate of each kind will not only illustrate the character of those I wish to introduce, but will likely stimulate our population to look at our indigenous Yuccas & Agaves and to make trial of the properties of their leaves. I feel still more anxious to have those figures than even those of the *Ar. Solanum* B. Pita, *M. abaca* at least during the present month. I shall hence search in the Congressional Library for the foreign authors which you cite as giving plates although I fear without success - (I cannot find in it the Nov. No. of the *Franklinian Journal* to which you refer for an article on the fibres of Pineapple leaves). Perhaps I may find the *Botanical Magazine* 1157" although the reference is rather indefinite.

I conclude by thanking you with all my heart for your urgent letter to Professor Herbel of the *Jardin des Plantes* at Paris, requesting him to forward seeds and also living plants of *Chorizanthe* *benedicti* & of *Musa* *Abacas*. I forget whether I mentioned to you the fact that Perrotet carried some to French Cayenne where they are said to be greatly multiplied. Perhaps Mr. Downing will undertake to get as many as possible from that place on commission so that they may arrive at New York this spring and reach Florida before the summer rains come on. I know of a Merchant at Charleston S. C. is the Agent of Capt. ^{Jacob} Boresman the Proprietor of Indian Key, and hence the former might be confided in to forward to the latter any parcels sent to him from New York by the Mail packet sails from Charleston the 15th of each month for Indian Key and Key West. Hence any thing sent from New York in a steam packet between the 5th & 10th of each month would likely arrive at Charleston in time to go in the Mail packet. I mention this in the event any thing should offer before a permanent contract be made with responsible agents both in New York & Charleston. Once reaching Indian Key the fidelity of Mr. Howe is a guarantee that every seed and plant will be diligently preserved and propagated. Very res^{pectfully} yours obt^{servant} Henry Perrine





Professor John Torrey, corner of Prince & McDougall Sts New York

Washington 18th May 1838.

Dear Sir Permit me to intrude on your kindness the last time by requesting that you will inform me whether you have received my letter of the 16th April & 10th May and the Documents to which they refer and what action you have taken or intend to take in compliance with the solicitations therein contained that a request should be made to U.S. Senators to have the Senate Bill No 241. called up and acted on in that chamber as soon as possible. Twenty days delay on the duelling question - several days more on the issue of tracing Notes - and constant protraction on all partisan topics - will prevent the passage of measures of all private Bills which have been before Congress for many years waiting for a tardy justice until most of the claimants have died or have been ruined in the pursuit. Who can wonder that after many years unavailing sufferings, the poor claimants should yield up the ghost besqueathing their curses on the Mis-government of their Country. In reply to me please to enclose the letter in a cover, and on that envelope direct to the Hon H. Logan, Hon A. W. Snyder, or Hon L. J. Linns. The illib who receives the envelope on opening it finds the letter directed to me, and sends it to my lodgings. Heaven knows that my general expenses are too heavy for my means without being furthered with postage on many letters. An average of 4 to 5 dollars a day is the least amount which me is forced to spend in Washington. H.P.



Free
H. Legan



Professor John Torrey
C of Prince & Mc Dougall Sts
City of New York

